

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JARRETT MUCK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jarrett Muck, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jarrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jarrett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jarrett Muck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR (IGY)

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to mark the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY), honoring its contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments. I am pleased that several of my colleagues from the Science and Technology Committee have joined me as original cosponsors and would like to thank Chairman GORDON, Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Ranking Member CALVERT, and Research and Science Education Subcommittee Chairman BAIRD for their support.

The International Geophysical Year of 1957–1958 was a highly successful international effort to coordinate global observations and measurements of the solid Earth, oceans, the atmosphere, and the near-Earth space environment. It was truly a global effort, involving thousands of scientists from 67 nations who came together—in the midst of the Cold War—to plan and carry out this ambitious cooperative scientific initiative.

As we pause to honor the accomplishments of the IGY, it is worth remembering that the IGY marked the dawn of the Space Age. The successful launches of the first artificial satellites, Sputnik 1 by the former Soviet Union and Explorer 1 by the United States, opened new areas of research and enabled one of the

most notable achievements of the IGY, the discovery of belts of trapped, charged particles in the Earth's upper atmosphere by the late Dr. James Van Allen of Iowa.

Yet the discovery of the Van Allen belts is just one of the significant scientific achievements of the IGY. Indeed, scientists around the world continue to build on the impressive research legacy left to them by their predecessors fifty years ago. Equally importantly, the IGY has been a shining example of the benefits of international cooperation in scientific endeavors. The coordination of global interdisciplinary observations by researchers from multiple nations during a time of geopolitical tensions continues to be an inspiration and a model for those who recognize the significant contributions that can be achieved when nations come together in the peaceful pursuit of scientific knowledge.

I introduced a similar resolution in the 108th Congress, which passed the House, to honor the IGY and to encourage the celebration of its 50th anniversary throughout the country and the globe. This commemoration serves to not only remember the great scientific work that was done during the IGY, but also to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, who will be critical to our continued progress and economic well being. In that regard, I encourage the public and in particular our young people to participate in celebrations planned for the IGY anniversary year and to embrace challenging goals for future research in Earth and space science, so that we will be able to look back, 50 years from now, on equally exciting accomplishments and discoveries.

Madam Speaker, I think that it is fitting that this Congress take the time to recognize and honor the fiftieth anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, and I hope that this concurrent resolution will be speedily adopted by the House.

BIOSURVEILLANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Biosurveillance Enhancement Act of 2007.

Biointelligence and biosurveillance provide the early warning systems necessary to detect the spread of disease, whether natural or intentional. To date, these systems have not yet been adequately developed, although progress is being made. The Biosurveillance Enhancement Act of 2007 will further their development by building upon past efforts in order to provide the United States with a truly effective biosurveillance capability.

The legislation I am introducing today authorizes the National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC), which will be the primary

nexus of the Federal Government's biosurveillance efforts. The NBIC will serve as a centralized system for consolidating data from biological surveillance systems and will be staffed by an interagency group of biosurveillance experts. Relevant data feeds will be brought together and analyzed to monitor any unusual health activity, including human, animal, agricultural, food, and environmental health problems. This analysis will enable federal, State, and local governments, and private sector entities, to quickly detect and respond to a biological attack or an outbreak of any natural disease.

My legislation requires the Director to develop, maintain and operate the NBIC and ensure data is integrated from relevant surveillance systems to identify and characterize biological events in as near real-time as possible. This bill will also ensure that the Director continually enhances the NBIC's performance by regularly adding new data feeds, improving statistical and analytical tools, establishing procedures for reporting suspicious events, and providing technical assistance to State and local Governments and private entities.

This legislation will now give us the capability to integrate data from biosurveillance systems with other intelligence information to provide a comprehensive and timely picture of all existing biological threats. Information assembled within the NBIC, such as incident or situational awareness reports, will be shared with the heads of other agencies via information sharing networks.

The NBIC is designed to be a beacon of interagency partnering. Participating agencies will integrate biosurveillance information through the NBIC, provide timely information and connectivity of data systems, detail personnel to the NBIC, and participate in shaping the NBIC's operating practices. In addition, the Director may invite officials of other government agencies, including interagency partners, to participate in a working group to advise and steer the activities of the NBIC.

Situational awareness and early detection can mean the difference between an outbreak and an epidemic, or between a foiled and a successful biological attack. A strong biosurveillance capability will help protect our citizens and will enable us to more effectively respond to the worst-case scenarios. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MRS. VERNA DUTY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Verna Duty. Mrs. Duty passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 24, 2007. She was 83 years old.

Ms. Duty lived a life of dedication and sincere loyalty to those she cared for and fulfilled

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the philosophy by which she lived her life of "leaving it better than you found it."

Verna Viola Brown was born on September 18, 1923 in Keota, Oklahoma. Ms. Duty relocated to California and became a lifelong resident of Riverdale, California a small farming community in the San Joaquin Valley.

She was the wife of the late Mr. Joe Duty, a farm worker and she gained a deep appreciation and love for those who labored in the fields. Her pride and joy was being the mother of my dear friend Mayor Alan Autry of the City of Fresno. They shared a special bond and she was his biggest supporter as a mother, friend, confidante and hero. Her spiritual beliefs form an inspirational foundation of values for all who knew her.

Mrs. Duty is survived by her only child, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry and his wife Kimberlee of Fresno; her grandchildren Lauren, Heather and Austin; her brothers Tony, Gene, Alvin and Ronnie and sisters Gladys, Freda, Violet and Elaine.

Although the passing of Mrs. Verna Duty brings sadness to those whose lives she touched, her sincere and compassionate spirit and the ways in which she left this world a better place will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAILEY'S CROSSROADS ROTARY CLUB

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club.

The Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club was chartered on March 12, 1977, under the sponsorship of the Falls Church Rotary Club. The club was known as "The Early Birds" due to their 7:30 a.m. Friday meeting time at a Bob's Big Boy restaurant.

There were 27 members at the club's onset, which was prior to the approval of female membership. When Rotary International approved membership for women in 1989, the club led the way and was among the first to induct a woman into Rotary.

Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club continues to maintain a focus on the Four Avenues of Service, both internationally and in the local community. The following activities are highlights of the club's service sponsorships: Interact Leadership Club at JEB Stuart High School; "Family Day"; delivery of Thanksgiving food baskets to the elderly during the holiday season; food and clothing drives to assist the needy; a Rotary Centennial construction project; and consistent support for matching grants projects.

Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club has consistently been a leader in the number of members who are Paul Harris Fellows, having contributed \$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund. The club has given a total of \$312,000 to the Rotary Foundation since 1977. The Bailey's club is known throughout Rotary District 7610 as the "Can Do Club" and has received numerous awards including Outstanding Club. I am proud to have served as 1 of the 29 past presidents, and commend

current president, Joseph W. Luquire, for his dynamic leadership and for the excellent reputation of the club.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I congratulate Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club on its continued success and contributions to their community and Nation. On the occasion of their 30th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

IN HONOR OF SYNOVUS BEING NAMED ONE OF THE BEST COMPANIES IN AMERICA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a company that has made Columbus, GA, the Second Congressional District of Georgia and the United States proud. Synovus, a diversified financial services holding company based in Columbus, GA, recently was named by Forbes magazine to their Platinum 400 List of America's Best Big Companies.

To create the list, Forbes looked at more than 1,000 publicly traded companies with at least \$1 billion in revenue, and chose 400 based on metrics, earnings forecasts, corporate governance ratings, and other public company information. Of course, Forbes selected these companies not just for their financial performance, but also for their leadership, innovation, and execution.

The story of Synovus epitomizes the American spirit, exemplifying the kindness, innovation and enterprising character that has come to define this country. In the 1880s, a mill worker at Eagle and Phenix Mill in Columbus caught her dress in a piece of machinery. As her dress tore, her life savings, which she had sewn into her hem thinking it was the safest place for her money, spilled across the floor.

G. Gunby Jordan, the mill's secretary and treasurer, happened by and offered to keep her money in the mill safe and pay her monthly interest on the deposits. He soon offered the same service to all the mill workers, a system which years later, inspired Mr. Gunby to establish the institution that became Columbus Bank and Trust Company—Synovus' lead bank.

More than a century has passed since that torn dress, and like the act that founded Synovus, the company has continued to operate on the principles of integrity, character, treating people right and doing the right thing.

And it has served the company in good stead: Today, Synovus is one of the largest and strongest financial institutions in the Southeast, with 39 banks and \$31 billion in assets.

Indeed, I am proud to have this company in my district. Please join me in congratulating Synovus and its 14,000 employees on receiving this award.

NEW PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER URGED TO WORK FOR SIKH SOVEREIGNTY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently elections were held in Punjab. The voters turned out the Congress Party government and restored the Shiromani Akali Dal to power. This means that Parkash Singh Badal returns as Chief Minister.

The Congress Party claims to be secular, but the fact is that it presided over the massacre of Sikhs that took the lives of over a quarter of a million Sikhs. It was the party that carried out the military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion. On the other hand, the Akali Dal has historically been the pro-Sikh party. However, during the tenure of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Punjab did reclaim its water rights and cancel the agreements that allowed diversion of that water to other states. The bill implementing the cancellation explicitly declared the sovereignty of Punjab.

As you know, Madam Speaker, Punjab, Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has written to Chief Minister Badal urging him to keep his campaign promises of a better economic life for Punjab farmers, of clean government, and to reclaim the capital city of Chandigarh for Punjab. He also urged Mr. Badal to declare again the independence of Punjab, Khalistan and to work for a free and fair vote.

The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. As such, a free and fair vote on the issue of independence is called for if India still wishes to be looked upon as the democracy it claims to be. The Indian government is sending out its sycophants to spin the Punjab elections as having "debunked" the Khalistan movement, but in fact, quite the opposite is the truth of the matter.

I call on this Congress to stand up for freedom and join in urging the Punjab Legislative Assembly to declare independence again, and to urge India to allow a free and fair plebiscite on the matter of independence for Khalistan, for the Christians of Nagaland, and for Kaslunir, as promised in 1948, as well as all others who seek their freedom. I also call for a stop to American aid and trade with India until basic human rights are respected and everyone there is allowed to live in freedom, dignity, prosperity, and security.

Madam Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's letter to Chief Minister Badal into the RECORD at this time with the permission of the House.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, February 28, 2007.

Hon. PARAKSH SINGH BADAL,
Chief Minister of Punjab, Chandigarh, Punjab,
India.

DEAR CHIEF MINISTER BADAL: Congratulations on your victory in the Punjab elections and your return as Chief Minister. You promised the return of clean government to Punjab. That would be a welcome relief for the people of Punjab. You also promised free electricity and Rs4 per kilo for wheat flour and Rs20 per kilo for lentils for the poor. We